GOLD
GOBLIN
MARVEL
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NORMAN OSBORN HAS BEEN MANY THINGS IN HIS LIFE. BUSINESSMAN, POLITICIAN, FATHER AND GRANDFATHER, AND MOST NOTABLY: SUPER VILLAIN. AS GREEN GOBLIN, NORMAN COMMITTED UNSPEAKABLE ATROCITIES AT EVERY TURN. THAT WAS ALL TAKEN AWAY WHEN THE VIGILANTE SIN-EATER TOOK AWAY NORMAN'S SINS AND LEFT HIM A CLEANSED MAN. TO MAKE UP FOR HIS PAST WRONGS, NORMAN IS GIVING THE OTHER SIDE OF SUPER-HEROICS A GO AS...

GOLD GOBLIN

Norman Osborn has spent a lot of time figuring out just what it means to have his sins erased. When he talked the new Jack O'Lantern, Owen Ward, down from a path of villainy, Norman thought he had found his way. Those hopes were dashed when Owen took a sharp turn and held hostages in Union Square to bait the Gold Goblin into a confrontation. Norman's attempts to reason with the visibly confused Owen ultimately failed, and Owen's life was lost in an explosion caused not by his usual pumpkin bombs but a part of QUEEN GOBLIN'S scepter.

Embracing the new sensation of guilt, Norman went to attend Owen's funeral, only to be swarmed by the press and F.B.I. When he attempted to leave the cemetery, he found that his driver had been replaced by the Queen Goblin herself, Ashley Kafka, who is more than ready to give his sins back to him.

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TAKE YOUR SINS, NORMAN!
RELEASE ME FROM THEIR BURDEN!
LET THEM BURN YOU AWAY INTO NOTHING INSTEAD OF ME!
QUEEN GOBLIN. A MANIFESTATION OF ALL MY EVIL DEEDS.
SOUNDS LIKE SHE WANTS--NEEDS--TO GIVE THEM BACK.
E#$% THAT.
BEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEPPPPP
OOOF!

QUEEN GOBLIN ALSO HAPPENS TO BE MY OLD RAVENCROFT COLLEAGUE ASHLEY KAFKA. THE WEIGHT OF MY SINS MUST BE KILLING HER.
LAND TUNNEL
KAK-KAOOOWWWWMM
ASHLEY NEVER DID SEEM THE STRONG TYPE. BUT STILL, HOW SAD IS IT...
YOU CAN'T RUN! NOT FROM ALL YOU'VE HURT AND DESTROYED!
...THAT THE SINS OF ONE MAN CAN BE SO GREAT, SO GROTESQUE...
TELL THE TRUTH, NORMAN! YOU WANT MY PAIN! BECAUSE WITHOUT IT, YOU'RE NOTHING AT ALL!
...THAT ONLY HE-- AND HIS DEEPLY TWISTED SOUL-- CAN CARRY THEM?

LOOK AT THIS. DOWN HERE WITH THE GARBAGE. THE SEWAGE.
MAYBE IT'S WHERE I BELONG.
BECAUSE OF WHAT I'VE DONE.
HAHAHAH

BUT EVEN NOW, SOMETHING WON'T LET ME STOP.
MAYBE IT'S THE GOOD IN ME.
PDAMMF
HAHA. WHAT GOOD?
PDAMMF
MAYBE IT'S JUST THE FEAR.
OR MAYBE IT'S SOMETHING ELSE EVEN DEEPER INSIDE. SOMETHING THAT I'VE NEVER DARED TRY TO ARTICULATE.
SOMETHING SCARIER.

RAVENCROFT. OR RATHER...WHAT I KEPT HIDDEN UNDER RAVENCROFT. EVEN IN THE PANIC OF RUNNING, SOMETHING INSIDE ME...
...BROUGHT ME RIGHT BACK HERE.
I CAN'T USE THIS STUFF. EVEN AGAINST HER. A GOLD GOBLIN IS ONE THING, BUT A GREEN ONE...
...A GREEN ONE...
KAKOWWWWWWWWWFFFFFF
TEMPTATION! GOOD! THIS IS REAL PROGRESS!
YOU THINK KAFKA DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR HIDEAWAY DOWN HERE? SHE KNEW... SO NOW I KNOW TOO.

THWAAACCK
KINGSLEY AND LEEDS WERE THE FIRST BITE OF BAIT.* I KNEW YOU COULDN'T RESIST BRUTALIZING THOSE TWO DESPICABLE WANNABES. SHOWING THEM WHO STILL WEARS THE CROWN...
*SEE ASM #12-13! --NICK "NED LEEDS IS INNOCENT" LOWE
...AND ONCE YOU WERE A GOBLIN AGAIN, IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME.
WHHMMMMFFF
OWEN WAS THE HOOK. A LI'L TRAGIC JACK O'LANTERN TO SHOW THE NEW HERO HOW MUCH HE'S HATED, WHAT LITTLE HELP HE OFFERS...
ASHLEY...
...YOU'RE A TERRIBLE PSYCHIATRIST.
HAHAHAHAHA!
YOU KNOW, IT'S SUCH A SHAME THAT PEOPLE DON'T REALIZE HOW FUNNY YOU CAN BE!
SPIDER-MAN GETS TO BE THE FUNNY ONE...
I TRUTHFULLY DON'T FIND THE TIME FOR MUCH HUMOR, SEEING AS YOUR SINS ARE EATING AWAY AT ME LIKE ACID.
FFFF
YOU'RE READY NOW. READY TO STOP PRETENDING.

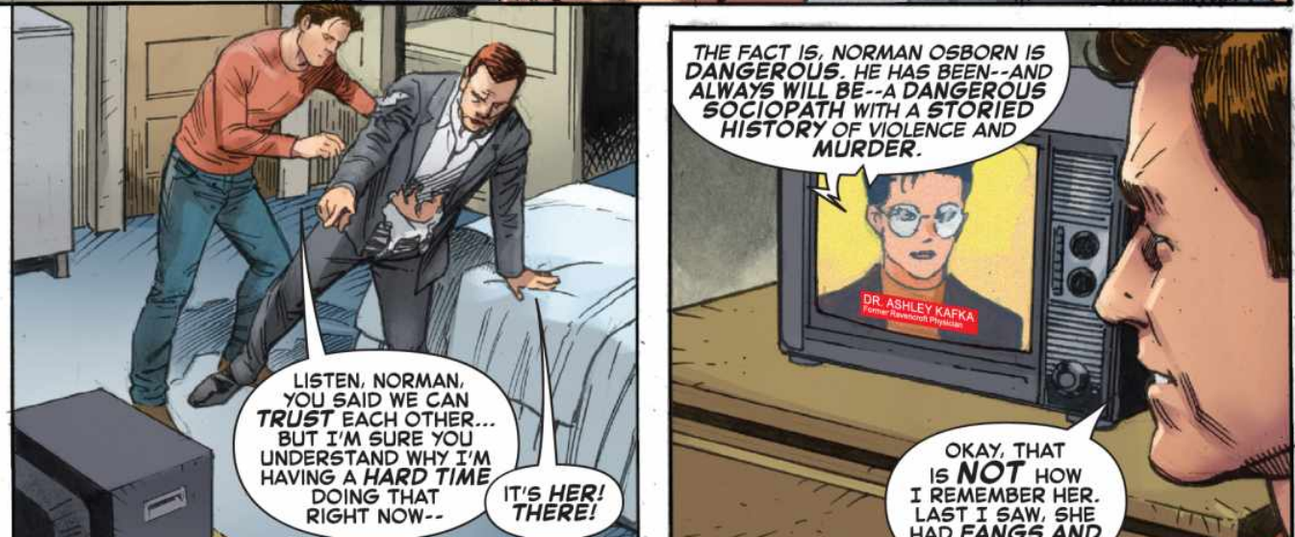
READY TO ACCEPT THE TRUTH.
FOCUS ON MY GOBLIN GAZE AND RETURN...
SEE AND RECEIVE YOUR WORST DEEDS...
NO... NO!
NO!!!
HHKKK!
NGGGH... YOU...YOU... YOU... SEE...
YOU...SEE... MY...WORST... SINS...YOU...SEE... YOUR...WORST... SINS!
MY SINS... ARE...YOUR SINS... SEE...YOUR... SINS....
NNNNOO... NNNNOOOOO!
SCIENTIFICALLY, WE WOULD CALL THIS A FEEDBACK LOOP.
MALICE... CRUELTY...SPITE... HATRED...
RECENTLY CLEANSED OF SIN, I BECOME A MIRROR. SHE SEES ONLY HERSELF.
MY SINS, IN EFFECT, LOOK INWARD. AND SUFFER.
TECHNICALLY, I SUPPOSE IT'S A MOMENT OF SELF-REFLECTION, ALBEIT ONE I COULD HAVE NEVER ANTICIPATED.
HOW DOES IT FEEL?!

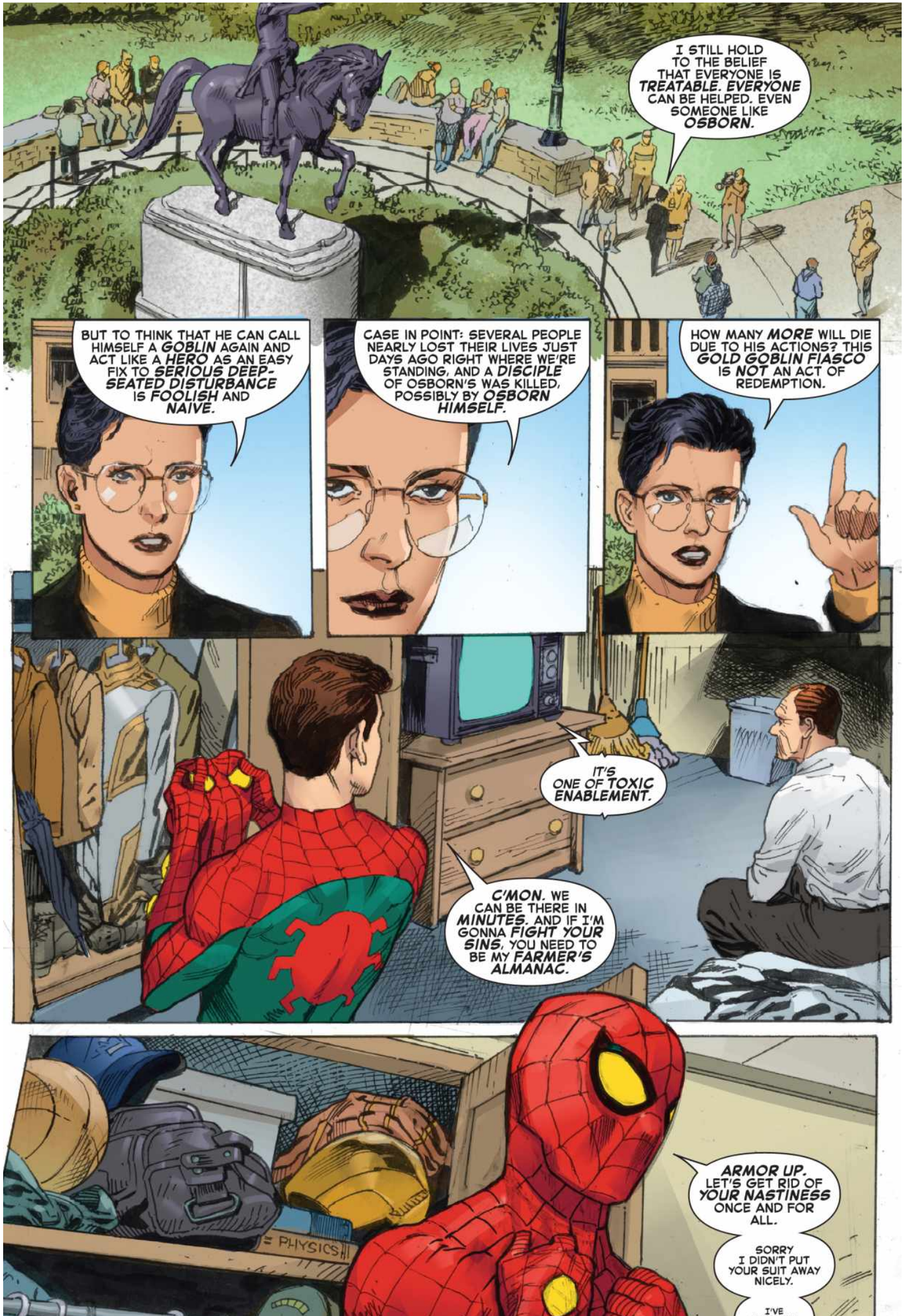
SUCH EVIL... I AM...SUCH EVIL...
I'LL ADMIT, MY WRETCHED PAST UNDOING KAFKA LIKE THIS IS...A SPECIAL KIND OF SHAME IN AND OF ITSELF.
HI.
GAAAAHH!
SEEMS LIKE YOU HAVE A LOT TO FEEL BAD ABOUT... AND IT'S KINDA EATING YOU UP INSIDE, ISN'T IT?
I DOUBT MY SINS CAN GROW A CONSCIENCE ON THEIR OWN. KAFKA HAD ONE, BUT SHE'S BEEN ALL BUT ENTIRELY BURNED AWAY. IT BUYS ME A MOMENT...
STAY AWAY... STAY AWAY FROM ME!
IT'S CALLED GUILT, DOC. WELCOME TO IT--
GUILT? GUILT?!
THE GNAWING TEETH OF GOOD? SOME PATHETIC
IS THAT WHAT YOU

ALL MORAL LIGHT DIES IN MY SHADOW!
THE SINS OF OSBORN!
THE UNENDING QUIETUS OF QUEEN GOBLIN!
NYYYYYYYEEEEEEEEEAAAAOOOOOOOOOOOO

KNK KNK
PLEASE. IT'S NOT A TRICK. I...
PLEASE.
NORMAN, OH MY GOD...
PETER... GOTTA STOP HER...
STOP WHO? WHO DID THIS?
QUEEN GOBLIN...IT WAS HER. JACK O'LANTERN... ALL OF IT. SHE'S MY SINS, PETER. SHE'S EVERYTHING I EVER DID...
THEN THAT MAKES HER PRETTY BAD IN MY BOOK.
SHE WANTS TO GIVE ME MY SINS BACK... I'LL DIE BEFORE THAT HAPPENS... I NEED YOUR HELP... I NEED...

PETER, I NEED... SPIDER-MAN...
WOW. I KIND OF WISH I HAD THAT ON TAPE.


LISTEN, NORMAN, YOU SAID WE CAN TRUST EACH OTHER... BUT I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I'M HAVING A HARD TIME DOING THAT RIGHT NOW--
IT'S HER! THERE!
THE FACT IS, NORMAN OSBORN IS DANGEROUS. HE HAS BEEN--AND ALWAYS WILL BE--A DANGEROUS SOCIOPATH WITH A STORIED HISTORY OF VIOLENCE AND MURDER.
DR. ASHLEY KAFKA
Former Ravencroft Physician
OKAY, THAT IS NOT HOW I REMEMBER HER. LAST I SAW, SHE HAD FANGS AND


I STILL HOLD TO THE BELIEF THAT EVERYONE IS TREATABLE. EVERYONE CAN BE HELPED. EVEN SOMEONE LIKE OSBORN.
BUT TO THINK THAT HE CAN CALL HIMSELF A GOBLIN AGAIN AND ACT LIKE A HERO AS AN EASY FIX TO SERIOUS DEEP-SEATED DISTURBANCE IS FOOLISH AND NAIVE.
CASE IN POINT: SEVERAL PEOPLE NEARLY LOST THEIR LIVES JUST DAYS AGO RIGHT WHERE WE'RE STANDING, AND A DISCIPLE OF OSBORN'S WAS KILLED, POSSIBLY BY OSBORN HIMSELF.
HOW MANY MORE WILL DIE DUE TO HIS ACTIONS? THIS GOLD GOBLIN FIASCO IS NOT AN ACT OF REDEMPTION.
IT'S ONE OF TOXIC ENABLEMENT.
C'MON. WE CAN BE THERE IN MINUTES. AND IF I'M GONNA FIGHT YOUR SINS, YOU NEED TO BE MY FARMER'S ALMANAC.
= PHYSICS!!
ARMOR UP. LET'S GET RID OF YOUR NASTINESS ONCE AND FOR ALL.
SORRY I DIDN'T PUT YOUR SUIT AWAY NICELY.

YOU... YOU TRUST ME?
HONESTLY? NOT A TON. BUT IF YOU SHOW UP LOOKING LIKE THAT, KAFKA'LL ROAST YOU LIKE A MARSHMALLOW ON A STICK.
JUST DON'T DO ANYTHING TOO... GREEN...
I DON'T USE THE WORD LIGHTLY, BUT I ALREADY KNEW HE WAS INSANE WHEN WE WORKED TOGETHER AT RAVENCROFT.
MY PROFESSIONAL OPINION IS THAT HE SHOULD BE A PATIENT THERE INSTEAD OF A WARDEN, INVOLUNTARILY COMMITTED FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, PERHAPS THE REST OF HIS LIFE.
NORMAN OSBORN IS NOT A HERO. HE IS A MENACE.
YA KNOW, I'VE ALSO BEEN CALLED A MENACE...
CTV
...BUT I'VE COME TO SEE IT AS A COMPLIMENT.
YOU... BOTH OF YOU...!

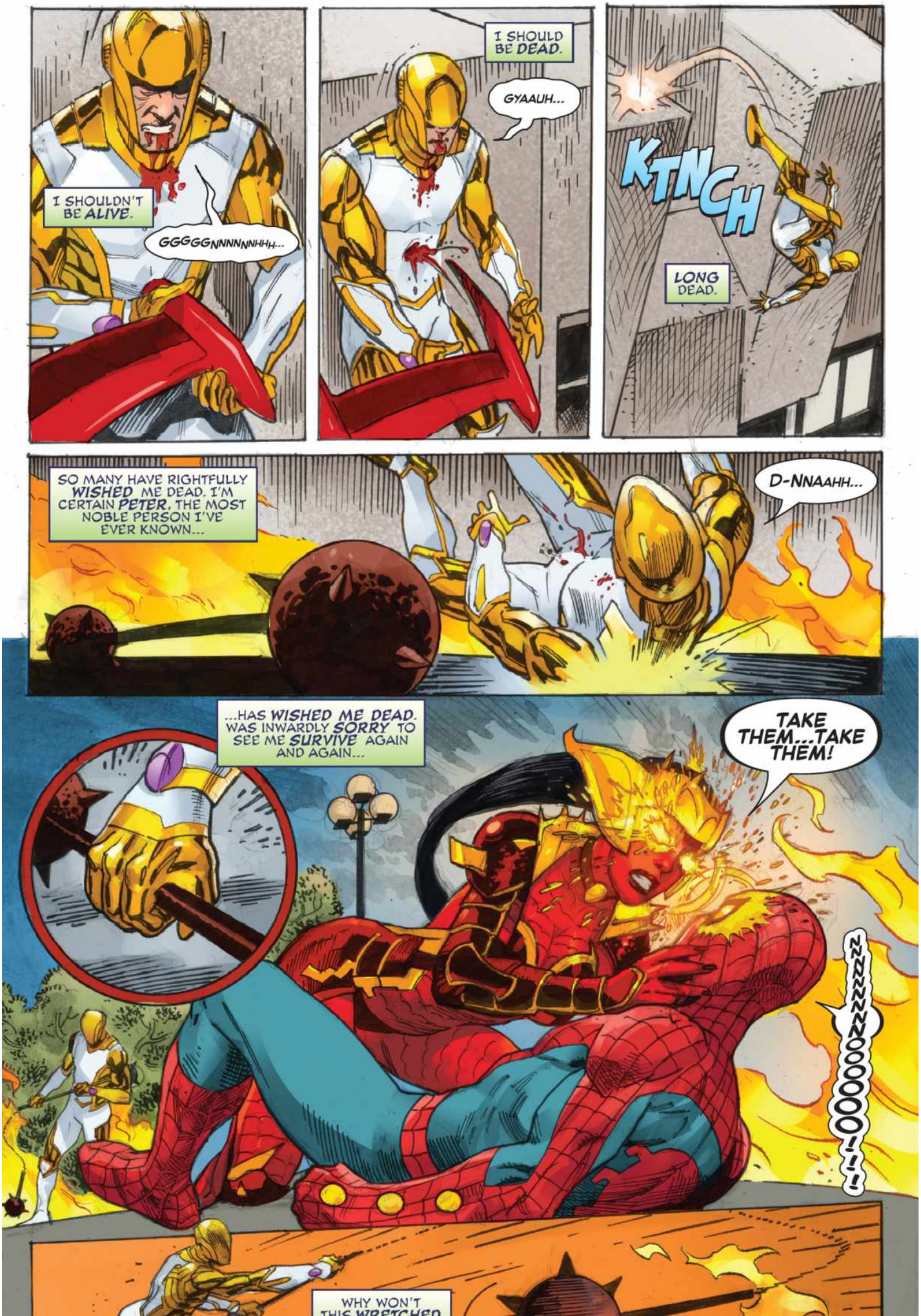
THIS. ENDS. NOW.
THAT'S HIS INCREDIBLY OMINOUS AND STOIC WAY OF SAYING THE PARTY'S OVER, I GUESS. MAYBE IT'S A GENERATIONAL THING, BUT IT'S PROBABLY MORE JUST A NORMAN THING...
KEEP ROLLING!
WHAT NOW, NORMAN? ARE YOU GOING TO KILL ME ON LIVE TV TOO?
WE KNOW WHAT YOU REALLY ARE. NO MORE HIDING.
NO MORE GOBLINS.
IT'S LIKE LOOKING AT MYSELF IN A WAY, ISN'T IT? FORCING MYSELF TO FACE THE TRUTH OF WHAT I'VE DONE.
RECKON WITH IT.
NO... STOP...
AFTER ALL, MY SINS ARE YOUR SINS. AREN'T THEY?
DON'T... NO...
MY SINS... ARE YOUR SINS! FACE THEM!
NO!
I WILL CARRY YOUR EVIL NO MORE!

FWWWWWWWOOOOOOOOMMMMMMMM
TAKE THESE SINS, OSBORN! THEN TAKE THEM ALL THE WAY TO YOUR GRAVE!
OH BOY.
SEEMS SHE HAS A PENCHANT FOR THE DRAMATIC.
GEE, I WONDER WHERE SHE GETS THAT FROM...
OPENING BID...
THWIP
STUPID BUG.
SHINK
HEY, THAT'S NEAT. DOES IT ALSO HAVE BLUETOOTH--?
FWWWAAA

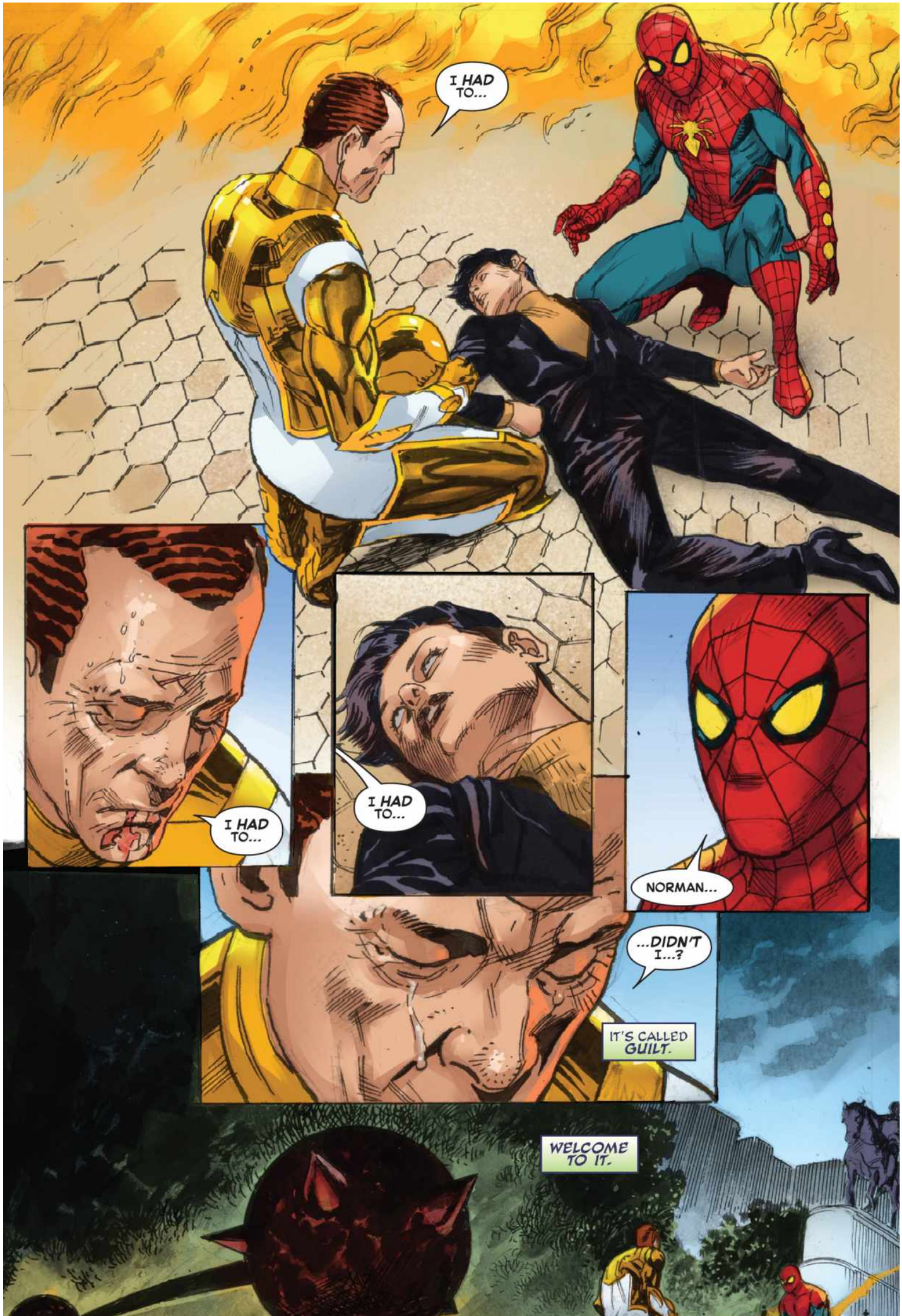
SO, YOU WANT TO GIVE MY SINS BACK BUT ALSO TAKE THE CREDIT?
TCHEOWF
YOUR SINS ARE MY SINS, AS YOU SAY, OSBORN... BUT NOT FOR MUCH LONGER...
CH-CHNGK...
MMMFFFF!
SLRRCH
KAKKOWKWWGGSCH
DEJA VU.

GYNNNNNNH...
SCCCHNNKK
FEEL FAMILIAR, NORMAN?
DYAAUH!
I AGREE, LET'S KEEP PLAYIN' THE HITS...
I GOTTA SAY, YOU MIGHT BE THE MOST ANNOYING ONE YET, YOU KNOW THAT?
KRATCH
FUNNY--EVERY MOVE YOU MAKE IS AN ECHO OF NORMAN.
AND HE'S THE SPARRING PARTNER I'VE STUDIED THE MOST.
FFAK

NOPE.
NOPE.
MM-MM.
NAH.
STILL NO.
NOT HAPPENING.
CRIPES, ARE YOU EVEN TRYING?
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD CARRY NORMAN'S SINS, BOY!


I SHOULDN'T BE ALIVE.
GGGGGNNNNNNHHH...
I SHOULD BE DEAD.
GYAAUH...
KTNCH
LONG DEAD.
SO MANY HAVE RIGHTFULLY WISHED ME DEAD. I'M CERTAIN PETER, THE MOST NOBLE PERSON I'VE EVER KNOWN...
D-NNAAHH...
...HAS WISHED ME DEAD. WAS INWARDLY SORRY TO SEE ME SURVIVE AGAIN AND AGAIN...
TAKE THEM...TAKE THEM!
NNNNNNOOOOO!!!
WHY WON'T

LEAVE HIM ALONE!
GKK--
SNAP!
I... I HAD TO...


I HAD TO...
I HAD TO...
I HAD TO...
NORMAN...
...DIDN'T I...?
IT'S CALLED GUILT.
WELCOME TO IT.

GOLD GOBLIN #5

Hey, Web-Heads!

We here at Spidey-Central hope you enjoyed this book as much as we enjoyed making it. It ended up being something very different than we thought it might be when we started developing it, which is one of the joys of making a comic.

Christopher Cantwell is a known Spider-Nerd up here at Marvel, but he went even deeper than I expected with his Norman knowledge (or Normledge) and research. We knew we wanted this to be a darker book, and, boy, did Chris deliver one of the darkest books I've ever worked on. While Cantwell's brain can sure be scary, he is an absolute gem to work with and a lovely human being. Check out his NAMOR book, and we should be announcing Chris' next BIG thing here at Marvel soon! Thank you, Chris.

Lan Medina is another human gem. He worked super hard to give this book the gravitas it deserved. His storytelling is great, his design is spooky, and the scope he gives a situation is incredible. Thank you, Lan! And thanks to Rafael Pimentel for stepping in when we needed a little help along the way.

Antonio Fabela showed once again why he's such a great and creative colorist, doing so much mood creation with his color choices. And Joe Sabino did such elegant and thoughtful work on the lettering. Thank you both!

A few unsung heroes who don't get talked about much are Charles Meyer, Angie Nunez, and George Beliard. They are part of our Publishing Operations department, and without them, none of our freelancers would ever get paid! They work really hard and are constantly putting out fires that can seemingly come out of nowhere. Thanks, Charles, Angie, and George.

Lastly, thanks to Assistant Editor Kaeden McGahey who also worked super hard holding this book together and getting it to the printer!

This may be the end of our GOLD GOBLIN series, but it's not the end of the Gold Goblin. He's still a major part of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, so pick up AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #21, on sale now!

Keep Thwippin'!

Nick Lowe
Spider-Editor

ZONE